



**AFRICA  
EVIDENCE  
NETWORK**

*Only together can evidence-  
informed decision-making  
become reality.*

NEWSLETTER || July 2021

## Celebrating Africa at Africa Evidence Week 2021

The second Africa Evidence Week is here! **Africa Evidence Week (AfEW) 2021** is happening from 13-17 September with an objective to showcase and promote the state of evidence-informed-decision-making (EIDM) on the continent, specifically highlighting the involvement of Africa's decision-makers. We hereby call on all Africa Evidence Network (AEN) members, emerging EIDM leaders, and organisations in Africa to come experience this Week because a celebration is best done together. To participate, share blog posts, Twitter chats, reports, online events, stories, and any other digital content with us. For guides and to sign up, read the **AfEW 2021 concept note**, find guides on the our **participation portal**, and **sign up** to participate in this incredible showcase of Africa's vibrant EIDM ecosystem.



**Africa Evidence Week 2021** is taking place from 13 to 17 September. Be sure to sign up and partake in Africa's thriving EIDM network celebrations!

Photo: Africa Evidence Network

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Twenty early-career African researchers are conducting multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research on how to translate **evidence into policy aimed at zero hunger in Africa**. They are part of a partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals between South Africa's University of Pretoria and the United Kingdom's Food Systems Research Network for Africa.

The African Union's African Task Force on Coronavirus (AFTCOR) continues to support **African governments develop evidence-based responses to COVID-19**. This task force highlights work done by African policy-makers to develop and implement evidence-informed policies specific to the context and understanding of African stakeholders.

Last month, Cochrane Africa launched **Cochrane Kenya** at the Kenya Medical Research Institute Annual Scientific and Health conference. A geographical affiliate of the global Cochrane collaboration, **Cochrane Kenya joins the network of people interested in health in Africa to train Cochrane reviewers and promote the use of synthesised evidence for health decisions**.

The Center for Epidemiological Modeling and Analysis (CEMA) in Kenya was recently launched out of a successful collaboration comprising a multidisciplinary group. The centres aims to **enhance data-driven decision-making** in infectious disease control in east and central Africa.

## Putting the spotlight on... ...a new member!

Welcome to **Joseph Tembo**, a researcher from Zambia interested in engaging in professional networking. You have come to the right place Joseph: welcome!

Want to spotlight you or your organisation? **Let us know** and you could be featured.

## Mark your calendars

**22 July 2021: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) Learnings from routine child vaccination coverage for Covid policy, [online](#).**

**1-7 August 2021: National Science Week (NSW), [online](#).**

**30 Aug – 02 Sep 2021: the 4th International Conference on Science Advice to Governments (INGSA2021), [online](#).**

In this month's AEN blog, Laura Boeira introduces us to **Veredas**, a Brazilian organisation that works to foster greater access to technical and scientific knowledge for policymaking, with a focus on human rights, criminal justice, labour market inclusion, and public health. View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your AEN blog **here**.

### Evidence of how COVID-19 is affecting women's employment

The World Bank's Regional Gender Innovation Labs (GILs) have since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 heeded the urgent call to **collate evidence on the impacts of COVID-19, particularly to show the disproportionate impact the pandemic crises has on socially excluded groups, such as women**. Some of their key findings assert that, women have been more likely to lose their jobs; sectors that employ a higher share of women have been more affected; female-owned businesses have been hit the hardest and employment aspirations among adolescent girls and boys have diminished. Find out about the policy recommendations developed based on these findings which aim to inform the design of the World Bank's operations to address the pandemic's impacts on women's employment.



**A woman at work in a Bangkok factory**  
GILs have developed evidence-informed policy recommendations to inform the design of the World Bank's operation to address the pandemic's impacts on women's employment.

Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

### INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

An article by [The Conversation](#) explains **the role of intermediaries within the science-to-policy interface**. Authors discuss the role of these intermediaries as individuals and/or organisations not only as brokers of scientific information from researchers to policy-makers but also in helping translate science and facilitate relationships between scientists and policy-makers through two-way communication and trust. Furthermore, the article explores how this valuable trade can be professionalised.

View the latest Global COVID-19 evidence updates from [COVID-END](#) in the [global spotlight 6.2](#). Decision-makers are encouraged to keep current about COVID-19 responses including the full spectrum of public-health measures, clinical management, health-system arrangements, and economic and social responses. [Subscribe](#) to receive the twice-monthly email update.

An article by Mirage highlights the National Refugee Week, which took place from 20 – 26 June. We journey to Australia and explore how non-government organisations like Welcoming Australia, a national network helping people feel welcomed across Australia, rely on **evidence to inform the design of initiatives to support refugees**. Read more about what the evidence suggests migrants need to settle into a new country.

### Hot off the press

**Hannes et al:** 'Defining and transforming local migration policies: a conceptual approach backed by evidence from Germany'

**Shayo et al:** 'Readiness of healthcare facilities with tuberculosis services to manage diabetes mellitus in Tanzania: A nationwide analysis for evidence-informed policy-making in high burden settings'

**World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe:** 'Integrating gender data in health information systems: challenges, opportunities and good practices.'

### Opportunities

- **The School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape** seeks to recruit a **full-time Postdoctoral Fellow** beginning from September 2021 on a three-year project. Applications due 30 July 2021.
- **University of the Witwatersrand** calls for suitable candidates to **apply for the TDR Postgraduate Training Scholarship in Implementation Science for the 2022 Academic Year**. Applications close 31 July 2021.